



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH March 15, 2013

Jewel Mullen MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner, (860) 509-7101

Senate Bill 894: An Act Concerning Persons Who Decontaminate Medical Instruments

The Department of Public Health opposes Senate Bill 894 and would like to offer the following comments for your consideration.

This bill would provide statutory recognition for technicians who decontaminate medical instruments. It also establishes mandatory certification and continuing education (CE) requirements for these technicians. Hospitals and outpatient surgical centers would be authorized to waive or approve extension of the time for the completion of CE courses.

While the Department would be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this bill, DPH has no authority to impose sanctions on these technicians and would need to develop regulations for compliance and enforcement. Additionally, the bill proposes that the Commissioner may recognize a professional organization as a certifying body for these technicians. This deeming authority would require the development of standards and criteria for certification. The Department would not be able to perform these functions within existing resources.

The Department feels the certification of persons who decontaminate medical instruments fall under the scope of practice law passed in 2009 and therefore, should go through the Department's scope of practice review for complete assessment of any public health and safety risks that may be associated with the request, whether this will enhance access to quality and affordable health care and whether this request enhances the ability of the profession to practice to the full extent of the profession's education and training.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100
Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
An Equal Opportunity Employer*